

REMARKS

The applicants respectfully request reconsideration in view of the amendment and the following remarks. The applicants have incorporated the features of claim 10 into claim 1.

Claims 1, 2 and 9-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Bechtold U.S. 5,244,549 ("Bechtold"). The applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Bechtold relates to a process for dyeing cellulose containing textiles with vat dyes using a very dilute solution of vat dye in the presence of Fe(II) complex salts and electrochemical reduction of the Fe(III) generated during the dyeing process (see col. 1, lines 5-15; col. 3, lines 61-67; col. 4, lines 1-9 and the examples). The teaching of Bechtold is the use of a mediator system for the reduction of vat dyes. Bechtold gives no hint on how concentrated solutions of leucoindigo can be generated electrochemically. Furthermore, the applicants' claimed invention requires, "the dye to be reduced is not precharged all at once, but is added a little at a time". The importance of this claimed feature is discussed in the last paragraph at page 3 of the specification. The applicants believe that this feature is not taught in Bechtold.

Also, the examples in Bechtold describe the preparation of very diluted dye solutions. The applicants have informed the undersigned that it is not possible to prepare concentrated leucoindigo solutions using Bechtold's process because clogging would occur if Bechtold's conditions were transferred to concentrated solutions.

For the above reasons, this rejection should be withdrawn.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed

to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

The applicants have enclosed the fee for the two month extension of time. However, if an additional fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 03-2775, under Order No. 05579-00301-US from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Respectfully submitted,
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